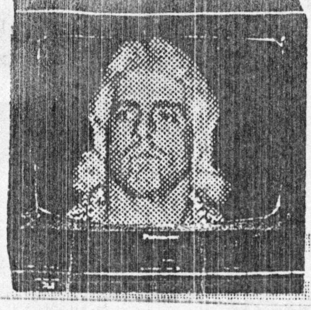

MATWATCH

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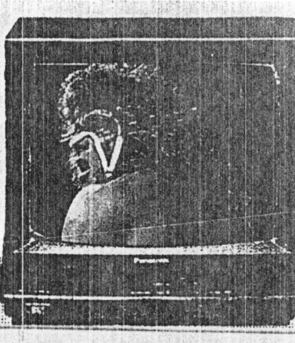

Matwatch Exclusive

WHERE'S EDDIE? TRYING TO GET HIS LIFE IN NEW ORDER

By STEVE BEVERLY
MATWATCH Editor/Publisher

Two years ago, Thomas Edward Gilbert II was on the verge of turning a dying one-state territorial promotion into a major force in professional wrestling. One year ago, still a member of the NWA booking committee and recovering from a damaged knee, he was pondering a serious return from an injury-aborted reign as half of the U.S. tag team champions. A return which, as an understatement, never really transpired.

MATWATCH and most of the top wrestling bulletin editors have been repeatedly questioned of Gilbert's whereabouts and his future with the NWA. Most of the inquiries are with faint hope that "Hot Stuff" will one day revive the heel character for whom UWF, Continental and Memphis fans bit nails weekly in a love-hate relationship.

Today, nearly six weeks after suffering what appeared originally to be a torn rotator cuff and dealing with a painful personal problem, Eddie Gilbert has been visitng his family in Lexington TN in an effort to get a refreshed perspective on life.

Eddie wanted to tell his story to MATWATCH, despite unwritten taboos for wrestlers to openly talk to newsletters. He feels strongly erroneous stories are being circulated concerning his condition, his personal life and his loyalty to the NWA. We met for lunch June 18 across from the Jackson hospital where his mother works.

"I've had pain in my neck and vertebrae since my auto accident in 1983," said Gilbert. "I'd been working in pain for weeks and finally, Johnny Ace and I were working together in Fayetteville, North Carolina, and it got so bad, I knew I had to stop." TBS doctors have examined Gilbert and originally felt he had a torn rotator cuff but that diagnosis changed ten days ago.

Booked for a return in Birmingham June 20, Gilbert said the pain was still too intense to compete, despite pressure from the NWA organization. "Some people in the company began to say I didn't want to work because I was mad or jealous that I didn't get the booking job (which went to Ole Anderson). That's simply not true. I'm in the process of getting a second opinion on my shoulder while I'm here. I still can't lift my arm above my head."

Between bites of prime rib, Eddie related emotional hurt which has built over the last ten months. "I've made no secret of the fact that I think my future is behind the scenes. But if the company wants to go in another direction, as they have, I'm willing to go along with that," said Gilbert. "The feeling has been I'm too young (30). But every time something like this happens, there's a group which likes to say I'm mad, which I'm not."

> "Some people began to say I didn't want to work because I was mad or jealous that I didn't get the booking job. That's simply not true."

Gilbert was quick to point out WCW executive vice president Jim Herd was not one of his accusers. In fact, Gilbert had high praise for Herd. "The one person I care about what he thinks is Jim Herd," said Gilbert. "He takes a lot of criticism but he took a big chance renewing my contract and paying me what he did when it was obvious my future in the ring was going nowhere. Mr. Herd's been very fair to me."

Because of that respect, Gilbert made an offer to Herd last Monday to be taken off the NWA payroll until he can physically return to the ring. "I wanted to be equally fair to him. I'm not going to risk my body any more until it's ready and I don't think I can be more fair than to say I'm not going to take their money until I can work." Elsewhere in MATWATCH, we'll have Herd's response to Gilbert's offer.

On a more personal level, Gilbert has been dealing with the pain of a pending divorce from NWA MAIN EVENT co-host Missy Hyatt. "It'll be final in about three weeks," Eddie said. "But I want everybody

(Continued on Page 2)

WHERE'S EDDIE?

(Cont. from Page 1)

to know there's no bitterness and we're friends. I told Mr. Herd because I wanted him to know the problems in our marriage have nothing to do with me being out, even though some have suggested otherwise."

Gilbert said the pressures of maintaining dual careers in the same field took their toll on the marriage. "The last eight months or so, I'd been under a lot of pressure, wondering what my future was and trying to protect my position. And of course, Missy had some problems in the company last fall. Things got rough on both of us and we were pretty much drifting apart. But we're not casting any blame and I hope none of the fans do, either. It's just best for us to go our separate ways," said Gilbert. The Gilbert home is up for sale in Acworth GA.

> *"We're not casting any blame and I hope none of the fans do, either. It's just best for us to go our separate ways."*

Eddie would not speculate on the current creative regime in the NWA, nor his own future. But he is preparing for a potential career away from the ring. During his visit, he made the investment to open a 10-minute auto oil change business in his hometown. He also owns land in Lexington and is examining other investments.

"The options just aren't that many these days," said Gilbert. "A lot of guys are desperate to stay in wrestling because they don't know how to do anything else. I don't want to fall into that trap."

As I left, I felt I'd seen a man who's carried a lot of emotional baggage the last year but who's in the process of making some critical, maturing decisions for his life. A man who loves his chosen profession much as a builder loves developing a new subdivision. One who, if given the chance, has years of significant contributions to make. There are many sides to every story. But Eddie Gilbert wanted his heard. And I believe whatever he chooses to do, he'll make it.

MATWATCH HOTLINE
(901) 664-9246

The line is open all day with an answering machine and most evenings, I am available after 7 p.m. But please leave news on the line if you have it. With 800 of you, I can't possibly return every call.

THIS WEEK'S HEADLINES

WWF PICKS MIAMI FOR ROYAL RUMBLE

MIAMI----The World Wrestling Federation has selected Miami for its fourth Royal Rumble spectacular.

The Rumble will be staged January 19, 1991, at the Miami Arena, a 16,000-seat facility for the NBA Miami Heat franchise.

The event will mark the second straight year the Rumble has been in Florida, following this past winter's Orlando card.

CRUISE TO BEGIN LPWA JULY 20

PORTLAND, ME---Former NWA WORLD WIDE WRESTLING host Chris Cruise takes over as emcee of the Ladies Professional Wrestling Association cable package July 20.

The group will tape in Salisbury MD. Ken Resnick and Sgt. Slaughter, who currently host the cable shows, will move to the new LPWA syndicated package.

Cruise was close to a deal to take over as host of the new Rob Russen-promoted IWA cable TV package but could not come to terms on money.

MISSY OFF OF MAIN EVENT? SO SOURCES SAY

ATLANTA----NWA MAIN EVENT co-host Missy Hyatt is reportedly being axed from her role on the TBS series, according to sources close to World Championship Wrestling.

Reasons have not been specified but Hyatt was said to have been sent a registered letter from the WCW office, which sources indicate say her from the show.

Hyatt assumed co-host duties in February after a hiatus from the NWA. If she is dismissed, it will complete a purge of sidekick commentators on all NWA TV series.

BRUNO'S BIO OUT IN TOP CHAINS

PITTSBURGH----BRUNO SAMMARTINO, an autobiography by the legendary WWWF champion, has been released and is expanding its sales base.

The book is published by Imagine, Inc. Sources indicate the book will soon be available in most Waldenbooks and B. Dalton Bookseller stores.

TV TEMPO

June 18-24

SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. PILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(SOUTHEASTERN) - S.E. TV TITLE: Superstar d. Denny McCormick to win belt but gives it up because he's SE hwt. champ; Midnight Riders d. Terminator/Golden Eagle; Assassin/Killer Kyle d. Jim Boss/Ric Starr; Richie Dye d. Larry Santana by DQ; Moondog Max d. Ebony Austin; Luke Graham Jr./Mauler Mays d. Chief Little Lynn/Jamie Kyle. RESTHOLD.

(CNWA) - Akam Singh d. Masked Eagle; Biff Wellington d. Alexander the Great; Jerry Morrow d. Steve Gillespie; Great Gama d. Randy Rudd but Morrow attacks Gama after; Duke Myers/Goldie Rogers (The Bowlers) d. Ron Ritchie/Italian Boy. BOMB.

(IWA) - S. PHILLY GRUDGE MATCH: Johnny Hotbody d. Tony Stetson when ref stops for blood; Sonny Beach d. Bobby Salsa; Cousin Luke d. New Jersey Nightmare; Pit Bulls d. Crazy Ray/Ray Oddyssey; Derrick Dukes d. Ivan Koloff then brawl at ringside. RESTHOLD.

(LPWA) - [Last Week]: Rusty Thomas d. Maira Misaki; The Goddess d. Sindee Paradise; Misty Blue Simmes d. Jan Flame. RESTHOLD. [This Week]: Bad Girl d. Linda Street when Bugaloo holds down Linda & Adrian Street attacks Bugaloo after; Nasty Girls double countout vs. Tina Moretti/Bambi; KEN'S CORNER: Sheik Adnan al-Kaissie; LPWA TITLE: Susan Sexton d. Judy Martin by DQ when Judy uses object. DRAW.

(WWF/USA) - [PRIME TIME]: Barbarian d. Pez Whatley; Shane Douglas d. Bob Bradley; Bushwackers d. Dale Wolfe/Bill Garlets; Orient Express d. Jim Powers/Garlets; Bossman d. Jim Townsend; Jim Duggan d. Duane Gill; Rhythm & Blues d. Jimmy Snuka/Koko B. Ware; BRO. LUV: Savage/Sherri; Brutus Beefcake d. Mike Durham; SEGMENT: Genius recites 41 Presidents in 9 sec.; Dino Bravo d. Tony Ulysses; Rockers d. Tony Leone/ Tom Stone; Rick Martel d. Hercules; ANGLE: Gorilla "fines" Bobby Heenan $5,000 for not supporting Hulk Hogan. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(WWF/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: 'Wackers d. Wolfe/Garlets; Earthquake Tenta d. Picari; Nikoli Volkoff d. Buddy Rose; Rick Rude d. Brady Boone; Bossman d. Chris Duffy; Jimmy Snuka d. Mike Sharpe; Jake Roberts d. Mike Williams. RESTHOLD.
[SUPERSTARS]: Duggan d. Gill; Orient Ex d. Powers/Garlets; UPDATE: Tribute to Hogan; BRO. LUV: Ultimate Warrior teaches Bruce a lesson in love; Beefcake d. Durham; Barbarian d. Scott Colantonio; Demolition Smash/Crush d. Joe Champ/Paul Diamond; Bravo d. Ulysses; SEGMENT: Bossman's "teacher" tells Ted DiBiase Bubba was a poor student. RESTHOLD.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WORLD WIDE]: Brian Pillman d. Bruno Sassi; WRAPUP: Jim Herd says Horsemen haven't been suspended because DWA have asked him not to; Lex Luger d. Pete Sanchez; Buddy Landell d. Vern Henderson; Paul Orndorff d. Cliff Sheets; Barry Windham d. Tim Parker; NWA TV TITLE: Arn Anderson d. Tom Zenk. RESTHOLD.
[NWA PRO]: Orndorff d. Mike Thor; Landell d. Dino Hernandez; Freebirds d. Dave Johnson/Mike Collins; Southern Boys d. Lethal Weapons; DOOM draw vs. Rock & Roll Express; Other winner: Mark Callous. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(PRO WRESTLING '90) - Royal Family d. Bob Farley/Tim Holt; Chic Donovan double countout vs. Billy Black; CLASSIC: Queen Kong double countout vs. Blue Maxie; Mike Golden d. Steve Prichard; INTL.: Batten Twins d. Pogo/Chicky Starr. BOMB.

(ICW) - Bob Orton Jr. d. Leroy Reed; Ebony d. Mike Fortune; Eric Sapracea d. Mad Russian; Jose Luis Rivera d. Kingpin; Hurricane d. G.Q. Madison; Wild Bunch d. Equalizers. BOMB-PLUS.

(CHICAGO CHAMPIONSHIP) - Tony DiVito vs. Jim Holliday no contest; Reynolds Bros. d. Crazy Ray/Woody Ripper; Max Dencity d. Bully Doug. BOMB-PLUS.

(WINDY CITY) - [*Last Week]:* Yurbo d. Johnny Mercedes via DQ when Mike Sampson runs in; BATTLE ROYAL: Hurricane Smith wins to get title shot at Frank Nelson; (CLIPS) WCW TITLE: Smith d. Nelson. BOMB. [*This Week*]: Mike Summers/Holliday d. Tyrant/Luscious Leroy; Cody Hunter d. The Thrasher; Smith double countout vs. Nelson. DOUBLE BOMB.

(USWA/SYND.) - [CHALLENGE]: John Tatum d. El Gran Coloso; Jeff Jarrett d. Jeff Gaylord; Chris Adams' ex-wife Jeannie is valet for Steve Austin; Adams vs. Austin double DQ when Toni/Jeannie brawl. RESTHOLD-PLUS.
[CHAMPIONSHIP]: Jarrett d. Chuck West; Bill Dundee d. Dog of War; USWA TAG TITLE: Dirty White Boys d. Rex King 2-3 to win belts; Brickhouse Brown/Sweet Daddy Falcone d. Billy Travis/Germany; Gaylord/Braddock d. J.J. Funk/Frogman. RESTHOLD.

(USWA/WMC) - Michael St. John subs for Dave Brown; (MID-SOUTH COLISEUM) [USWA TITLE]: Snowman d. Jerry Lawler for belt when Leon Spinks decks Lawler; Bill Dundee d. Tony Anthony when Tessa slaps Tony but Anthony decks Tessa twice after; (STUDIO) Rex King d. Ken Wayne (reversal) when Joey Maggs tells Jerry Calhoun Ken's feet were on ropes; Lawler/Spinks swap live, pre-taped insults; Lawler d. Inhuman despite Downtown Bruno's protests; Snowman d. Ben Jordan; Wild Things (Gaylord/Braddock) d. Ken Raper/Freezer Thompson; (From USWA) Jeff Jarrett rejects $5,000 offer to join Akbar's Army; USWA TAG TITLE: Maggs/Rex King upset Dirty White Boys to win belts; Wild Things d. Rick Miller/Buddy Stevens. DRAW.

(LUCHA LIBRE) - Mascara Saprada/Justiciero/Xavier Cruz d. Emilio Charles Jr./Espectro Jr./Espectro III 2 straight falls via DQ; Los Brazos d. Lizmark/Villano II/Solomon Grundy 2-3 falls; Atlantis/Angel Azteca d. El Dandy/Satanico 2-3; Sangra Chicana/Ringo Mendoza double countout vs. Perro Aguayo/Fabuloso Blondy. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

(NWA/TBS) - [POWER HOUR]: Flair/Arn Anderson d. Mike Rotunda/Jerry Price but Horsemen/DWA get in brawl; WNN: Gordon Solie says Jim Herd will make ruling on Horsemen; Luger d. Barry Horowitz; Callous d. Dennis Fowler; LOUISVILLE SLUGGER: Jim Cornette w. Horsemen; Freebirds d. Southern Boys when Corny interferes; R&R Ex d. M.O.D. Squad. RESTHOLD.
[WCW]: Steiners d. Jason Knight/Terry Davis; Callous d. Chris Proctor; DOOM d. Scotty Williams/Rico Frederico; R&R Ex d. Lethal Weapons; JYD/Orndorff/Rocky King d. Flair/Arn/Windham by DQ when Ole runs in but Sting/Luger save; SEGMENT: Jim Herd orders Flair to defend title vs. Sting July 7 or be stripped of belt; Tommy Rich d. Jumbo Maretto. RESTHOLD.

LINES OF THE WEEK

1. Teddy Long/Boni Blackstone, WVEU-TV SUPERSTARS: (TL) "Shut up, Flintstone." (BB) "My name's not Flintstone."

(TL) "I've seen your birth certificate." 2. Jim Cornette, NWA PRO: "Steiner Brothers, you are those big, heavy powerful gas-guzzling Lincoln Continentals from Detroit. The Midnight Express, on the other hand, are sleek, streamlined, fuel-efficient sports cars from Japan." 3. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "You better get some better adhesive tape on that toupee, McMahon. It's coming loose in front." 4. Goldie Rogers, CNWA: "We're not losers like the Calgary Flames." 5. Kevin Sullivan, WWW: "There's an example of a psychiatrist's dream: Rick Steiner." 6. Diamond Timothy Flowers, CNWA: "I know (promoter) Fred May, a con artist." 7. Desiree/Ed Whalen, CNWA: (D) "I've got guts." (EW) "Yeah, I see them." 8. Bobby Heenan, PTW, on Hogan bracelets: "I sold mine to my aunt for 23 bucks. She'll buy anything." 9. Jimmy Garvin, NWA PRO: "Robert Gibson's like a bottle rocket. He shoots off real fast but he don't last a long time." 10. Tony Anthony, WMC: "My daddy always said if a woman put herself in a man's place, hit her just like a man."

11. Jim Ross, PH: "Luger won't be nominated for MR. PERSONALITY this month. With all his troubles with the Horsemen, who can blame him?" 12. Cornette, PH: "I'm a journalist. Ross told me so." 13. Ventura, WWF: "Bobby (Heenan) is a happy man. You can tell by the wrinkles on the back of his neck." 14. Whalen/Frank Sisson, CNWA: (EW) "The Skydome seats 67,000." (ES) "Well, we sure don't have that many here tonight." 15. Heenan/Gorilla Monsoon, PTW: (BH) "A lot of people look up to me." (GM) "Who? Sky Low Low?" 16. Samuel F. Kent, WVEU, to Boni: "Jim Herd must have been watching last week because he's answering your comments this week." 17. Garvin, NWA PRO: "Orndorff looks fantastic. I remember watching him when I was a little kid." 18. Garvin/Lance Russell, NWA PRO: (JG) "I don't think Jim Herd should get involved." (LR) "I don't remember him asking you." 19. Mrs. Cofer (Bossman's "teacher"), WWF, on Bubba: "He had to cheat to get F's." 20. Jerry Lawler, WMC: "Leon (Spinks), your teeth will be rolling around like Chiclets on the floor."

21. Snowman, WMC: "Lawler, as far as you're concerned, it's class dismissed. I don't want you to graduate." 22. Arn Anderson, WCW: "Batman and Superman are Superheroes. They belong in comic books. Not in a wrestling ring."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Jim Herd, WCW: "I'm here to tell you: the Four Horsemen don't run me and they don't run you!" 2. Flair, WCW: "The only one in the Turner empire who tells me what to do is Ted Turner himself." 3. Paul E. Dangerously, NWA, to Columbus GA male fan: "You're about as useless as a woman from Georgia." 4. Mrs. Cofer, WWF: "I've been teaching 20 years and he (Bossman) was the worst student I ever had." 5. Ole Anderson, PH, to Cornette: "You're just like the Dudes--you talk too much & don't say a whole lot." 6. Monsoon, PTW, to Heenan: "What you do here is of no consequence whatsoever." 7. Lawler, WMC, to Snowman: "You came out here with your hand out like somebody in a welfare line." 8. Flair, WCW: "Jim Ross, you THINK you're the best at what you do. We KNOW!"

DUM QUOTE OF THE WEEK - Tracy Smothers, NWA PRO: "Niagara Falls: that's where the big waterfalls is."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Spinks, WMC: "Lawler, is you ready to go to hospital?" 2. Ultimate Warrior, WWF: "What do you know, Brother LUV, about love?" 3. Ventura, WWF: "What's white & Irish & comes out in the summertime? Patti O'Furniture."

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. DIZZY RAE (Ed Whalen on Desiree). 2. GODFATHER OF THE HORSEMEN (Ross on Ole). 3. LEON STINKS (Lawler on Spinks).

BEST PICTURES - 1. NWA PRO, Teddy Long arguing w. Lance Russell at the end. 2. PH, Closeup of Orndorff challenging Horsemen. 3. PTW, Butch Miller licking old lady. 4. WWF, Bill Eadie kicking Joe Champ. 5. WMC, Lawler's LEON STINKS T-shirt. 6. WMC, Lawler's facial reax to Spinks interview.

BEST AUDIO - Eadie, WWF, yelling, "PUNISH HIM!"

ALL-CLICHE TEAM - 1. Alfred Hayes, PTW: "...all the tea in China." 2. Michael Hayes, NWA PRO: "...bit off more than they could chew."

DREADED GLITCH AWARDS - 1. NWA PRO, rewinding of Landell-Hernandez replay pops up on air. 2. WMC, ringside camera goes purple.

NEED FOR CLOSED-CAPTIONING AWARD - Leon Spinks, WMC, for "interview" on match with Lawler.

BLOOPER AWARDS - 1. TORONTO SUN, "U.S. Champion RICK Flair with Sting in his corner vs. WORLD Champion Lex LUGAR with VICIOUS SID and WOMAN in his corner." 2. TORONTO SUN, "The STINER Brothers vs. DOONL."

BOO AWARDS - 1. USWA/MEMPHIS, for Tony Anthony decking Tessa twice. 2. USWA/WMC, for Leon Spinks not even counting Lawler's obvious pin. 3. USWA/SYND., for Adams wives angle. This and the Anthony bit again prove this is the most sexist organization in wrestling.

TUBE TALK

Joey Maggs & Rex King winning the USWA tag title on WMC Saturday came after Todd Morton "didn't show" as Maggs' partner....Sad note: Dirty Dick Daniels & Co. have been given a cancellation notice for INSIDE THE SQUARED CIRCLE on WMET in Gaithersburg MD. Last show was Tuesday night. WMET is converting to a Spanish format....CORRECTION: Ron Lemieux's get-together in Baltimore is JULY 7 at 1 p.m. at the Omni Hotel. I regret I'll miss: the owner of my company is coming to town that weekend....WCW Saturday with no Cornette & only 15 sec. of Paul E. was sorely lacking in personality.

Teddy Long made a guest shot on WVEU/Atlanta's SUPERSTARS show Saturday night....If Road Warriors (Legion of Doom) don't start at upcoming WWF taping, they will at the next.... The average rating/share for Ole Anderson's first four WCW editions: 2.9/7.3....The angle with Tony Anthony decking Tessa was Anthony & Memphis at its worst....Hulk Hogan cameos as himself in GREMLINS II....Co-host Howard Moshenberg is the guy who gets the sponsors for Larry Katz's PRO WRESTLING TALK in Baltimore.

Enjoyed our guest spot on PRO WRESTLING SPOTLIGHT with John Arezzi in New York last Sunday. Don Liable was on with us and Bruno Sammartino in the second half-hour....Portland was pre-empted June 16 but was back running Saturday night with Southern Rockers vs. U.S. Male for the Pacific NW tag title, Scotty the Body vs. Billy Jack Haynes and Rip Oliver vs. The Grappler....The July issue of ORBIT magazine for dish owners has a detailed 6-page cover story on wrestling and lists Flair as the top competitor but you'll probably be surprised at some other names in its top 15.

SNOWMAN GETS USWA BELT: The Snowman finally concluded a four-week USWA campaign to win the belt, thanks to a knockout punch on Jerry Lawler by ref Leon Spinks. Of course, this will never be mentioned in Dallas and doubtless, Snow will probably have to give it back. Lawler-Spinks is the followup Monday night at the Mid-South Coliseum.

VINCE GETS HIS MAN: Vince McMahon has signed a Los Angeles weathercaster, whose name we had not confirmed at deadline, to fill the announcing vacancy created by Tony Schiavone's departure.

CRUISIN' ALONG: Chris Cruise had been issued plane tickets to go to Stamford for a WWF tryout June 19 but the hiring negated that. Cruise was also pitched a chance to take over for Lee Marshall on IWA tapings but Rob Russen was too far away on money. Minneapolis' Mick Karch gets the nod instead.

ROB'S OUT: Russen has been axed as NWA's Florida events coordinator. Veteran announcer Gordon Solie takes over that role. How this affects Gordon's on-air work is uncertain.

RUDE RETURN: Rick Rude missed another weekend of shows and may be out part of this one, still nursing an injury.

MIAMI MAYHEM: WWF's ROYAL RUMBLE in the Miami Arena, enters a place which averages 5,000 for Titan. Once, it drew 9,000 for Hogan-Savage and 15,000 (with freebies) for TV.

RAID TIME?: It looks like John Nord will be getting a start date soon with the WWF. Plus, Titan is said to be heavily wooing five new players (including Ric Flair & the Steiners). Crowds continue to be lackluster.

A BIG NIGHT: Indie promoter Dennis Coraluzzo had the potential for a big house Saturday night with his Stan Hansen-Terry Funk main event. Hansen told the NWA he had the commitment before he began with them and would not break it. We'll have details next week.

FINAL POLL: 206 callers offered comments on COASTAL CRUSH, with 56% positive, 38% negative and 6% average or no opinion. The swaying factor in more than 2/3 of the negatives: distaste for the Flair-JYD finish.

COLUMBUS CALLING: JYD beat Flair in Columbus GA last Tuesday before 1,850. In the match, the belt was held up to each corner of the ring beforehand and fans thought it was a title match. THIS time, no announcement was made after that it was a non-title and fans left thinking JYD was champ.

MORE COLUMBUS: El Gigante got over big with the kids here. He wrestled El Diablo, not Cuban Assassin, as skedded. MATWATCHer Mark Clark says at least six violations of the Columbus Lewdness Law occurred, including three showings of hineys from pulled trunks, and assorted open profanities on mike. The inside joke: this is the town where at least three rock groups have had members arrested for violating the city's "lewdness" law for similar actions in concert.

II'S FINALE: At the Omni before 6,000 (4,300 paid) June 17, Ric Flair decked ref Mr. Wrestling II, so II recovered and kneelifted Flair to set up the win for Lex Luger & JYD.

MATWATCHING

TORONTO TALES: Preliminary sales look good for the NWA at the Toronto Coliseum for this week. Ringside was sold out last week for the 7,000-seat building and localized promotions have been heavy.

BOMBS AWAY: Joe Pedicino not happy with last two editions of PRO WRESTLING '90. A number of missed camera shots and lackluster production.

CANADIAN CAPERS: The Golden Eagle, a new CNWA player, is said to be a parody of the former British Olympic skier Eddie (The Eagle) Edwards. Goldie Rogers & Duke Myers are being called The Bowlers because they allegedly were rejected for membership in one of Frank Sisson's bowling leagues.

WHEN, WGN?: Latest word from Atlanta is NWA will go on WGN in September. But our latest call to WGN programmers brought an emphatic NO and curt irritation that so many people keep calling to confirm.

NETWORKING: NWA has landed a spot on powerful KTVU, the strong Ch. 2 independent in San Francisco-Oakland. The deal was finalized last week. If a similar deal could be struck in L.A., the NWA will make a new West Coast swing.

MORE NETWORKING: NWA, however, has lost traditional slot in Greenville SC to George Scott and similar loss may have happened in Charlotte. WWF SPOTLIGHT takes over old NWA slot on KICU-TV in San Jose CA.

FOXY NETWORKING: The latest count on FOX stations carrying Saturday a.m. wrestling is 67 and it includes all alliances. As we've reported the new FOX kidvid block from 8-11 a.m. this fall will force a lot of ringvid to other times or off.

CORRECTION: The JYD-Flair main event on the first COASTAL CRUSH showing drew a huge 9.4 shae, higher than the 9 we reported last week. The last half-hour of CRUSH averaged a 5.2/9.

CLASH CUTBACKS: A few cutbacks have been made in some NWA production areas. Production manager Keith Mitchell had to handle COASTAL CRUSH with ten fewer people.

TENNESSEE TRAIL: NWA in Knoxville and Chattanooga over the weekend with Flair/Windham vs. Furnas/JYD and Arn Anderson-Rick Steiner (which has been a strong match in the early going) on top.

SOUTHEASTERN SWAPS: Announcer Tony Cardgill has apparently bolted the ship of Chattanooga's WRESTLING'S FUNNIEST HOME VIDEOS (SOUTHEASTERN CHAMPIONSHIP). J.C. Carson, who's defending the heels, has returned as host, accompanied by "Cowboy" Jerry, the face supporter.

ON TOUR: The SOUTHEASTERN group has actually done recent shows consecutively in Athens TN and Fort Payne AL. It began a tourney to pick a new TV champ over the weekend.

NEXT WEEK: It's our second anniversary issue but we're not planning a biggie this time. With a busy schedule on our shoulders, we'll wait until the BASH PPV for an 8-pager.

RATINGS RAP

PRIME TIME TOPS WEEK BUT CLASH REPLAY BREAKS RECORD

PRIME TIME WRESTLING bounced back to the top of the weekly cable ratings for the week ending June 20 but TBS' CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS XI replay broke the all-time record for a repeat CLASH showing.

PTW on USA, toplined by a Rick Martel-Hercules main event, pulled a 3.1 rating and 5.3 per cent share of audience, enough to claim victory for the week.

But COASTAL CRUSH averaged a 2.8 rating and 5.8 share for its 10:15 p.m.-12:45 a.m. (EDT) airing June 20, easily eclipsing the old weeknight replay mark of 2.1. The rerun aired in 1.51 million homes, giving the two showings a gross audience of 3.85 million homes.

For the fourth consecutive week of Ole Anderson-produced WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP shows, WCW held tight to a strong 2.9 rating, even with no legit main event, giving Anderson four consecutive weeks of 7-plus shares, well above the WCW spring average. POWER HOUR and MAIN EVENT prime time showings were pre-empted.

CABLE

Week Ending June 20	Rating	Share	Total Homes
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 6/18)	3.1	5.3	1.64 million
NWA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (TBS 6/16)	2.9	7.4	1.58 million
NWA CLASH XI REPLAY (TBS 6/20)	2.8	5.8	1.51 million
WWF ALL-AMERICAN (USA 6/17)	2.1	7.1	1.11 million
NWA POWER HOUR (TBS 6/16, 7 am)	0.9	8.0	496,000

THE VIDEO STORE

KIT PARKER FILMS STRIKES GOLD WITH NEW COLLECTION

WRESTLING GOLD I & II, Distributed by Kit Parker Films, 1245 Tenth St., Monterey CA 93940-3692. Phone: 1-800-245-1146. Price: $29.95 per set plus $4.50 shipping.

Any fan of early 1980s wrestling nostalgia will enjoy the newest second volume of the WRESTLING GOLD series. Heavily compiled from old Southwest, Memphis and other southern promotions, GOLD II offers an early-career look at Terry "The Hulk" Boulder, a pre-Magnum T.A. Terry Allen and a pre-20/20 Eddy Mansfield.

My particular choice was Volume 3, which offered a George Scott-style match between Allen and Nick Bockwinkel, Mansfield in his typical "Continental Lover" style against Ivan Putski and a classic Eddie Gilbert-Jerry Lawler confrontation.

Volumes one and two contain early 1980s Randy Savage matches, one against Rick Rude and two against Austin Idol.

The tapes are no frills in their editing but come attractively packaged. For videophiles, the biggest drawback is the tapes are dubbed in EP (6-hour) speed, which dilutes overall video quality, particularly in wider ring shots.

Still, for fans who lacked the ability to tape or trade for a vintage era of mat classics, this is a valuable addition to any collection. RATING: POWERSLAM.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

UNTIL JULY 16: (U.S./CANADA) $6 for 7 issues, $19 for 26 issues. (OVERSEAS) $10 for 7 issues, $36 for 26 issues.

AFTER JULY 16: (U.S./CANADA) $5 for 5 issues, $10 for 11 issues, $15 for 16 issues. (OVERSEAS) $9 for 5 issues, $18 for 11 issues, $27 for 16 issues.

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